D.C.’s 20 most underrated museums and galleries, mapped

Skip the National Mall and head to these lesser-known locations instead

By Michelle Goldchain | @goldchaim | Updated Jun 14, 2019, 12:00pm EDT

If you want to skip the National Mall and journey to the hidden gems in Washington, D.C., we’ve got a map for you.

From the National Building Museum to the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site, these are the most underrated museums and galleries in the city. They range in focus from contemporary art and social issues to architecture and spy history.

Tell us about your favorite D.C. museums and exhibits in the comments.

Photo by Getty Images
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4. IA&A at Hillyer

9 Hillyer Ct NW
Washington, DC 20008
202-338-0325
Visit Website

This cozy Dupont Circle art gallery is hidden in an alley behind The Phillips Collection. Composed of three separate rooms and run by International Arts & Artists, a nonprofit, it offers contemporary artwork and events. The gallery seeks to highlight local, regional, and international artists and is open daily.